REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action mailed March 8, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 5,519,704 to Farinacci et al. (hereinafter, "Farinacci") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,036,518 to Tseung (hereinafter, "Tseung"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The M.P.E.P. states that

> To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

> The initial burden is on the examiner to provide some suggestion of the desirability of doing what the inventor has done. To support the conclusion that the claimed invention is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed invention or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.

M.P.E.P. § 2142.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims at issue are patentably distinct from the cited references. The cited references do not teach or suggest all of the limitations in these claims. With respect to independent claims 1, 7, 9, 15, and 17 the Applicants have amended these claims to further require the limitation of "updating a task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a

status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device."

Support for this limitation may be found in Applicants' specification such as, for example, p. 11,

lines 2-4.

Applicants respectfully assert that this limitation is not taught or suggested by the cited

references. Specifically, the cited references by the Office Action do not teach or suggest anything

related to "updating a task status table." For example, Farinacci teaches,

> In a preferred embodiment, when a packet is multicast from a sender
> node to all of its neighbors, the sender puts the packet on a queue for
> each neighbor and retransmits the packet if an acknowledgement has
> not been received within a predetermined period of time (this period
> of time may be selected in response to a round trip time between the
> two nodes).

Farinacci, Col. 2, lines 57-63.

The above cited teachings of Farinacci were cited by the Office Action as rendering the use of

a task status table obvious. The above cited teachings of Farinacci contain no teaching or suggestion

as to the use of a task status table. In particular, the above cited teachings do not teach or suggest

updating a task status table as claimed by the Applicants. For example, putting the packet on a queue

does not teach or suggest updating a task status table. Similarly, retransmitting the packet does not

teach or suggest updating a task status table. Further, Farinacci teaches,

> Node B 301b marks its route to node N 301n "active", and sends a
> query packet 403 to all its neighbor nodes 301. In this example, the
> only neighbor node 301 is node C 301c. Node C 301c has no feasible
> successor for its route to node N 301n, so it sends a query packet 403
> as its response to node B 301b. Node C 301c also sends a query
> packet 403 to each of its other neighbor nodes (there are none).

Farinacci, Col. 5, lines 50-57.

Marking a route as active does not teach or suggest updating a task status table. Similarly,

sending a query packet does not teach or suggest updating a task status table.

The Tseung reference also does not teach or suggest "updating a task status table" as claimed

by the Applicants. Tseung teaches,

> To guarantee correct data reception, communication protocols are used. These communication protocols commonly incorporate a technique known as message acknowledgement in which a receiving data processing station sends a message back to the transmitting data processing station to indicate that a message or a group of messages has been correctly received. Negative acknowledgement (NAK) or no acknowledgement prompts the transmitting data processing station to retransmit the message or group of messages – giving the receiving data processing station another chance to correctly receive the message.

Tseung, Col. 1, lines 38-49.

Sending a message back to the transmitting data processing station does not teach or suggest updating a task status table. Further, prompting the transmitting station to retransmit the message does not suggest updating a task status table. There is no teaching or suggestion by Tseung to update a status table of any kind when messages are received or retransmitted.

Tseung also teaches, "Furthermore, this message acknowledgement scheme ensures the transmitting data processing station does not send messages faster than what the receiving data processing station can handle." Tseung, Col. 1, lines 50-53. Ensuring that transmitting station does not send messages faster than the receiving station can handle does not teach or suggest updating a task status table. Similarly, Tseung teaches,

> If desired, confidential conference features of the present invention using the management station can ensure that only authorized users can send and/or receive the updates...The receiving data processing stations are guaranteed to receive the complete and correct information.

Tseung, Col. 40, lines 54-66.

Ensuring that only authorized users can send and/or receive the updates does not teach or suggest updating a task status table. Once the receiving data processing stations have received the complete and correct information, Tseung does not teach or suggest updating a task status table.

As such, Farinacci and Tseung neither teach nor suggest updating a task status table. In fact, neither of the cited references by the Office Action make any reference to the presence of such status

table. Because there is no teaching or suggestion by Farinacci, in view of Tseung of "updating a task status table," these claims cannot be obvious by the combination of these references. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1. Claim 8 depends directly from independent claim 7. Claims 10-11 depend directly from claim 9. Claim 16 depends directly from independent claim 15. Claim 18 depends directly from independent claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-3, 8, 10-11, 16, and 18 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with independent claims 1, 7, 9, 15, and 17.

With respect to claims 4 and 12, these claims recite the additional limitation of "updating a task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device." Support for this limitation may be found in Applicants' specification such as, for example, p. 11, lines 2-4.

As previously explained, Farinacci, in view of Tseung, does not teach or suggest such limitation. Thus, because there is no teaching or suggestion by Farinacci, in view of Tseung, of "updating a task status table" from a status indicator, these claims cannot be obvious by the combination of these references. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.
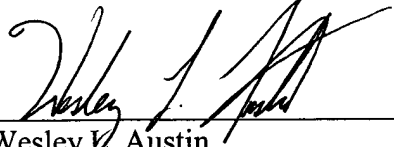
Claims 5-6 depend directly from claim 4. Claims 13-14 depend directly from claim 12. Accorindingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-6 and 13-14 be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as those presented above in connection with independent claims 4 and 12.

II.   Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references, and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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